I Did It Anyway

Version — edited July 10, 2026. Complete draft; all flagged wording resolved.

They Said Don't Do It and I Did It Anyway

Nikki Craft November 29, 2025

A young Nikki Craft — about 20 to 23 years old — looks straight into the camera, calm, unflinching, and lifting her middle finger in quiet, unmistakable defiance. Even before the politics, the campaigns, or the organizing, the stance is already there: don't tell her what to do.

Author's Note

What can I say? I've never written a book before, and I've never read a full autobiography in my life that I can remember. My writing came from an entirely different world — advertising-quality political graphics, political leaflets, letters to the editor, and direct-action documentation. I never judged writing by literary conventions, because my work was always about evidence, facts, and intervention, and confrontation of societal norms, not memoir structure. There is also the reality that I won't be able to get the funding necessary to complete it, and then what seems like a near unsurmountable task of finding a publisher who will not sensationalize, misrepresent or compromise it.. So a book was just one more thing I was fairly sure I had no business writing. I'm doing it any way.

Resistance until something is right comes naturally to me — not out of literary priority, but because nothing passes my internal test for integrity unless it feels accurate. For many reasons, not all of them stated here, I resisted writing in first person. My friends and a machine told me, emphatically, that autobiographies had to be first person. I did it anyway — I wrote and published the whole beginning in third person, and then had to publicly backtrack on the whole damn thing. I had told myself third person would protect me: from

criticism, from being seen as braggadocious about my own work, a publicity seeker. But once I understood the real issue — that third person distorted my voice and pulled me away from my own lived experience — the change became rational, and I shifted immediately, on my own terms. Not out of compliance. Out of accuracy, responsibility, and truth. I realized that first person instead protects me and holds me to a personal line that keeps me accountable to myself. Who knew? 😎

I did that with Michelle's and Donovan's guidance and grounding, with QuillGenie's structure, clarity, and precision, and with Claude's help organizing, interpreting, and sharpening the record.

At this point, a reasonable reader may be wondering: *"Will these machines and that woman ever shut the fuck up?"* Fair question. The answer, historically, has been: apparently not.

They Said Don't Do It and I Did It Anyway — Nikki Craft

Introduction

This record has been a long time coming.

Across five decades, I have been warned, advised, begged, cautioned, criticized, threatened, and discouraged from doing nearly everything I ever did politically. Some warned me out of love and concern. Some out of fear. Some out of ego or collusion. Some because my actions threatened their alliances, their careers, or their political comfort. And some of the hesitation came from inside me — the voice every woman develops after a lifetime of being told that speaking or acting will cost her something she can't afford to lose.

I did it anyway. All of it.

Here is how well that still lands. This account was published last year in our gender-critical feminist anarchist group. Not long after, a search engine handed it back to me summarized in a single line: a bitter woman lamenting her wasted life. I laughed out loud. Asked to describe a woman who refuses to regret anything, the machine reached for the oldest story the culture keeps on the shelf for women like me — bitter, wasted, finished. I am none of those things. Read what follows and decide for yourself. But know going in that the flattening starts early, and it starts automatic, and it is exactly the thing this record exists to refuse.

I'm gathering all of it here for several reasons.

This list exists to inspire other women — not sentimentally, but structurally. So women can see the machinery of suppression: how warnings are delivered, how they are internalized, and how "don't do it" becomes a voice inside your own head. This list shows what political suppression actually looks like. It shows how women are trained to pull back. It helps reveal how hesitation forms, and it may help women track their own hesitations.

This list also exists for memory. When I can see all of these warnings together — what I was told not to do, why people said not to do it, and what happened when I did it anyway — I can see the pattern of my life more clearly.

And finally: I have been urged privately and publicly not to publish my AI writing or my collaboration with QuillGenie, for all kinds of reasons — most of them legitimate concerns from people who care about me and the innumerable environmental and pollical concerns with AI. I understand those worries. But my political method has always been public.

Sharing the process, the mess, the conversations, the drafts, the failures, the risks — it has always been part of my work. That hasn't changed.

People have told me for years not to speak publicly because I would be banned, shadow-banned, or erased. I was and I continued to document and speak and confront, anyway.

This list is the record of everything they told me not to do — and the choice I made each time.

I did it anyway.

I. Activism, Dissidence & Civil Disobedience

Don't publish rapists' and sex offenders' names — I did it anyway.

Don't break laws and perform civil disobedience — I did it anyway.

Don't stay in jail on principle — I did it anyway.

Don't cross the line at Diablo Canyon — I did it anyway.

Don't disrupt Dow Chemical's Earth Day event in Lansing, Michigan for greenwashing — I did it anyway.

Don't confront Playboy or Penthouse — I did it anyway.

Don't criticize liberals — the naturists, the ACLU, and my own church since childhood, the Unitarians — for legitimizing and shielding pornography and actual sex predators — I did it anyway.

Don't include multiple political issues in one critique — I did it anyway.

Don't criticize conservatives because they'll fight transgenderism — I did it anyway.

Don't criticize feminists who collaborate with men — I did it anyway.

Don't go after the Catholics for pedophilia — I did it anyway.

II. Radical Media, Art, and Documentation

Don't create graphics exposing the Humane Society — I did it anyway.

Don't confront the NFL — I did it anyway.

Don't expose beauty pageants — I did it anyway.

Don't vomit publicly to expose eating disorders — I did it anyway.

Don't add a penis to the class photography model to expose manipulation — I did it anyway.

Don't critique the department for sexualizing students — I did it anyway.

Don't use Photoshop politically — I did it anyway.

Don't smile when a man screams in your face — I smiled anyway.

III. Transgender Ideology, AI, and Cultural Resistance

Don't critique transgenderism or its cost to women's sex-based rights — I did it anyway.

Don't say a man in a dress is still a man — I said it anyway.

Don't pour chocolate syrup on library prints — I did it anyway.

Don't destroy the misogynist "Stack o' Wheat" prints on exhibit at the university library — I did it anyway.[1]

After all that don't give the Les Krim's prints back to the library. I did it anyway.

Don't use AI — I did it anyway.

Don't let AI "capture and change your voice" — I used it with full agency anyway.

IV. Animal Rights & Rescue

Don't remove dead or injured animals from the road — I did it anyway.

Don't start a free spay/neuter clinic at 19 years old in Dallas in the late 1960s — I tried anyway.

Don't take on Michael Vick — I did it anyway.

Don't investigate dogfighters — I did it anyway.

Don't expose organized networks and individuals in animal rescue — I did it anyway.

Don't confront the Humane Society with a boycott — For two years of my life I did it anyway.

V. Environmentalism, Health, and Extreme Risk

Don't swim alone in freezing water — I did it anyway.

Don't fight riptides or swim at night — I did it anyway.

Don't continue ocean swims after hypothermia — I did it anyway.

Don't ride a motorcycle for environmental reasons in the mid 1970s — I did it anyway.

VI. Feminist Movement Conflict, Identity & Autonomy

Don't critique famous feminists — I did it anyway.

Don't oppose "pro-feminist men" connected to pedophiles — I did it anyway.

---

[1] In 1980, UC Santa Cruz exhibited Les Krims's "Stack o' Wheat" series — staged photographs of women posed as murder victims, with chocolate syrup used to simulate blood. Craft acted the day after a local woman was raped and murdered. She later donated a replacement set to UCSC Special Collections to force public debate about violent pornography rather than to suppress it.

Don’t confront John Stoltenberg about appropriating Andrea Dworkin’s legacy — I did it anyway.

Don’t criticize Catharine MacKinnon for positing that anyone who thinks they are a woman IS a woman. I did it anyway.

Don’t separate from male activists over important disagreements — I did it anyway.

Don’t insist on being heterosexual despite immense movement peer pressures; it violates the doctrinaire separatist purity tests — As I always work to do I ignored the purity culture entirely.

Don’t call out feminist collaborators with abusers — I did it anyway.

Don’t return to activism after false smears — I did it anyway.

VII. Policing, State Power & Personal Safety

Don’t get arrested and be such a trouble maker — I did it anyway.

Don’t refuse rehabilitation in jail — I did it anyway.

Don’t anger the ACLU — I did it anyway.

Don’t expose pedophiles in numerous protected communities — I did it anyway.

VIII. Internet, Speech, and Digital Resistance

Don’t speak out on Facebook — I did it anyway.

Don’t critique powerful groups online — I did it anyway.

Don’t host your own archives, it’s aggrandizing — I did it anyway.

Don’t expose racist feminists — I did it anyway.

Don’t return to the internet after six years — I did it anyway.

IX. Internal Conscience & Self-Overruled Warnings

Don’t do this — I did it anyway.

Don’t do that — I did it anyway.

Don’t say this — I said it anyway.

Don’t say that — I said it anyway

Don’t confront him — I did it anyway.

Don’t escalate — I escalated anyway.

Don’t risk your safety or future — I did it anyway.

Don’t trust your instincts — I trusted them anyway.